April 28, 1967

dear Gene:

Your April 25 letter, written on board the Constitution, reached me this morning and I will answer at once, as I have been debating first what to do ever since returning here. Your other 3 letters were also awaiting me so I am once again wanting to thank you for the time and concern you offered, and I am sorry I got the business so confused. However, it worked out most happily for me to finally see you and Sunny in Genoa, and I am glad to hear you are safely home. I came back to London quite lifted up and with a feeling that the trial 2 months would be easy to take. I had a large quantity of mail, with many Easter cards & messages from the choir. Also, the enclosed letter from Dr. Laubach.

Because I felt so much better, I decided to answer him at once, before seeing either doctor, and I sent a good & Christian reply. Dr. Sargant was very angry with me for continuing to write Gene, for he considers him my enemy & will make some use of my reply, to my detriment. Gene says flatly he wanted me to keep the letter completely between the 2 of us, but I couldn't very well refuse to show it to the doctors who are trying so hard to encourage & guide me. I send it along to you because you are actually no longer active on committees at church, & for what other reason I can't think, except you brought me to Riverside & have been my staunch and loyal friend for these 20 years. The news of Jim's retirement came as a terrible shock, & I only hope his health will not become so poor in contending with

his departure and the severe problems of Maud that his life is shortened. Laubach says Jim will take no further part in any decisions, so I know my last secure defense there is gone, + I suppose it is only a matter of time until I hear I am to return + be dismissed. I have spent the time since seeing you in trying to prepare myself to face this, since I can't change it, and I believe that God will supply me with sufficient stamina at the last to pick up + go on. In sending you the letter I think I am trying to show you the thinking and harassment behind so much of the business, and not to ask you to refer to it in any way, for it would probably anger Gene to know I had shared it. The doctors are going to prepare a joint letter to Jim, even tho' he is retiring. They have had no word from the Boards, no matter what Gene says, + they will not deal with him until it is made clear he is the sole active agent. Dr. Mason said I could go to law in England with what they have done to me, but I said I would never resort to such a thing, even if it were possible, for I would lose + so would the church. I have no contract except the one you gave me in 1946, so there is no legal action or hold I know of. I know one thing — if Jim would and wanted to, he could guarantee the opportunity I feel I have been promised, but he may be so anxious to be free of all of the worries there, that he will withdraw every final support. I think my main worry is that at 58 I can get no other work + I must take the chance of surviving on my teaching in-

come. The church will surely leave some retirement money for me even tho I lose my pension, and I have an insurance policy coming due at 60 so I will assemble what money I can and try to reinforce a very small savings account I have. When my aunt in Westminster finally dies, and she is very strong at 82, I will get something for the house I built her. Little by little maybe I can make it to 65 +, with social security, have enough teaching to make a living. I still can't understand what I have done that after 21 years they decide to dismiss me. In Weatherhead's "Prescription for Anxiety" he says: "the Church should consist of loving + understanding people dedicated to the task of the sinner's recovery to self-respect. The Church should be the loving, forgiving, understanding, accepting, + restoring community." I will believe that God is going to show me a new way and help me up, until I can't believe anything anymore, + I know He is present in this matter, not to destroy me but to teach me.

Thanks for the wonderful afternoon + evening together, and I hope I will get to see you + Sunny sometime soon again. I will have to sell my car, so let me know when you are in N.Y. and I will come to meet you or ask you to my place, until it too goes. You two are surely amongst my most cherished and valued associations + my very best wishes are always coming your way.

Sincerely,

Dick